

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights

February 17, 2006

USGS Ecologist trains interpretive staff ecology of Southeast Utah National Parks and Monuments: On 24 February, USGS Ecologist, Tim Graham, will train the new seasonal interpretive staff for the Southeast Utah Group (Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep National Monuments) on the various aspects of desert ecology, including why and how deserts form where they do, physical conditions organisms experience, and adaptations plants and animals have developed in response to these conditions. He will also describe in detail the ecology of potholes and other ephemeral pools on the Colorado Plateau. Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339

Research Using Insects as Disturbance Indicators Presented at Wildlife Society Meeting: USGS ecologist, Tim Graham, will present four posters at The Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting on March 1-3 in Moab, UT. His posters focus on research conducted on the Colorado Plateau using invertebrates and amphibians as disturbance indicators. The posters are titled: "Comparison of Orthoptera communities in Salt Creek, Canyonlands National Park: fluctuations over time in open-, closed-, and no-road parts of the canyon," "Ant communities of the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin: comparisons of structure in space and time using genus and functional group classifications," "Grasshopper communities in native and non-native grasslands on the Colorado Plateau: differences in density and species composition," "The Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative on the Colorado Plateau: pitfalls to selecting survey sites." Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339

National Park Service Invites USGS to Review Long-term Ecological Monitoring Program: USGS scientist, Charles van Riper III, has been invited by Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to participate in a review of the monument's long-term ecological monitoring program. At a workshop, to be held in Tucson March 28-31 2006, invited panelists from the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center, Las Vegas Field Station, Water Resources Division, and Midcontinent Ecological Science Center, will work with Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument staff and others to review current ecological monitoring protocols. The USGS panel members are being asked to make recommendations that will best meet current park management objectives, as well as identify future resource management needs for the park. Charles van Riper III, Tucson, AZ, 520-626-7027

U.S. and Mexico hold meeting on the Conservation of the Colorado River Delta: USGS scientist, Pam Nagler, presented a talk titled "Estimates of riparian trees and saltcedar in the delta of the Colorado River in Mexico" at a binational conservation meeting on the Lower Colorado River Limitrophe and Delta in the U.S. and Mexico. This NSF research coordination meeting facilitated information exchange between researchers conducting studies on the Delta. The meeting was sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense, and Pronatura Noroeste-Sonora, was held in Tucson, Arizona, February 16, 2006. Pam Nagler, Tucson, AZ, 520-626-2113

Evapotranspiration studies presented at Texas A & M: On February 20-22, 2006, USGS scientist, Pam Nagler, was invited to present her research on measuring and scaling evapotranspiration of a cottonwood restoration plot on the lower Colorado River. The meetings are sponsored by Dr. Georgianne Moore of the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Texas A & M for the seminar series "Ecological Restoration" in College Station, Texas. Pam Nagler, Tucson, AZ, 520-626-2113